

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00  
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /050 W  
-----201651Z 117032 /43

O R 201614Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8747  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 0688

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, DN, NI, US  
SUBJECT: BENIN COUP ATTEMPT: EFFORTS TO SECURE CRO DAVIS RELEASE

REF: (A) COTONOU 144; (B) STATE 013411

1. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION 1000 HOURS JANUARY 20,  
BENINESE AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA PRUDENCIO REPORTED THAT HE  
HAD INFORMED BENIN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JANUARY 18  
OF OUR CONCERN OVER STATUSOF CRO DAVIS. PRUDENCIO READ  
TEXT OF CABLE WHICH DESCRIBED DAVIS AS A "COUNSELOR" WHO  
HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE HOTEL CROIX DU SUD. HE ASKED  
MINISTRY'S ASSISTANCE IN SECURING DAVIS' RELEASE, BUT AS  
OF THE TIME WE SPOKE HE HAD HAD NO REPLY FROM COTONOU.  
HE SAID THAT HE WOULD INFORM AMBASSADOR EASUM OF ANY REPLY.

2. IN DISCUSSION WIT PRUDENCIO THOMPSON NOTED EFFORTS OF  
BENINESE MFA ON DAVIS' BEHALF AND REFERRED TO STATE  
POLICE'S ROLE IN CASE. PRUDENCIO SAID THAT HE  
RECOGNIZED THAT THERE COULD BE A PROBLEM BETWEEN  
MINISTRIES, BUT THAT HE COULD DO NO MORE THAN REFER MATTER  
TO MFA.

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3. COMMENT: SINCE PRUDENCIO APPEARS TO BE DOING AS MUCH  
AS HE CAN, DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO  
REQUEST FMG TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH PRUDENCIO ON OUR  
OUR BEHALF (REF. ?B) , ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY  
THAT FMG COULD ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN HAS ALREADY BEEN  
DONE I.E., BRINGING SERIOUSNESS OF DAVIS' ARREST TO  
MFA'S ATTENTION.

4. AT THIS STAGE, BEFORE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO ACT ON MFA NOTE, AND WHILE CHARGE'S MEETING WITH MINISTER STILL PENDING, THOMPSON BELIEVES USE OF INFLUENTIAL THIRD PARTIES ON DAVIS' BEHALF MIGHT PROVOKE ANGRY REACTION ON GPRB'S PART AND POSSIBLE CHARGES OF INTERVENING IN INTERNAL INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES OF BENINESE STATE. DIRECT APPEAL TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR INTERCESSION MIGHT BE RESERVED AS LAST RESORT.

EASUM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARRESTS, FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF EMPLOYEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977LAGOS00688  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770021-1060  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 COTONOU 144, 77 STATE 13411  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3549631  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BENIN COUP ATTEMPT: EFFORTS TO SECURE CRO DAVIS RELEASE  
**TAGS:** CASC, PFOR, DM, NI, US, (DAVIS, JOHN)  
**To:** STATE COTONOU  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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